

DTV Consumer Education Quarterly Report
First Quarter 2009 (covering January-March)

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Dakota Central Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. ("Dakota Central") is a 700 MHz Upper and Lower Band licensee that provides common carrier landline telephone exchange services. As an eligible telecommunications carrier, Dakota Central conducts consumer education outreach concerning the transition from analog broadcast television service to digital broadcast television (DTV).

Lifeline/Link-Up customers have been notified monthly that after February 17, 2009, and now after June 12, 2009, full-power analog programming will end, and analog-only televisions may be unable to display full-power television programming unless the viewer takes action. Customers are notified that a television receiver with only an analog broadcast tuner will require a converter box to receive full power over-the-air broadcasts with an antenna because of the Nation's transition to digital broadcasting, and that information about the DTV transition is available from www.DTV.gov, and from www.dtv2009.gov or 1-888-CALL-FCC (TTY 1-888-TELL-FCC) and 1-888-DTV-2009 (TTY 1-877-530-2634) for information about subsidized coupons for digital-to-analog converter boxes.

DTV education information is also included in Lifeline/Link-Up publicity campaigns, and Dakota Central personnel field calls about the DTV transition. A link to the FCC's Consumer Facts Troubleshooting Guide is posted on Dakota Central's website and is printed on billing invoices, and the factsheet is made available in retail outlets. Dakota Central will continue to provide consumers with information about the DTV transition through June 2009.



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BILL DATE: 03/10/2009
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CUSTOMER NOTICE

On February 17, 2009, TV stations will cease broadcasting in analog and switch to all-digital signals. Analog TV sets not connected to cable, satellite, or other pay-TV service (in other words TVs that use an antenna or rabbit ears for over-the-air TV) will need a digital converter box after February 17, 2009. Analog-only TVs connected to Dakota Central's television service will continue to work after the transition and will not need a converter box. Analog-only TVs also should continue to work as before to receive low-power, Class A or translator TV stations and with gaming consoles, VCRs, DVD players and similar products. The federal government is offering discount coupons for viewers who need to purchase converter boxes for analog TV sets. More information on the DTV transition is available at www.DTV.gov or by contacting Dakota Central at 1.800.771.0974 or www.daktel.com. For discount coupons, visit www.dtv2009.gov or call 1-888-DTV-2009 (1-888-388-2009).



CUSTOMER NOTICE

The nationwide switch to digital television broadcasting will be complete on June 12, 2009, but your local television stations may switch sooner. After the switch, analog-only television sets that receive TV programming through an antenna will need a converter box to continue to receive over-the-air TV. Watch your local stations to find out when they will turn off their analog signal and switch to digital-only broadcasting. Analog-only TVs should continue to work as before to receive low power, Class A, or translator television stations and with cable and satellite TV services, gaming consoles, VCR's, DVD players, and similar products. Information about the DTV transition is available from your local television stations, www.DTV.gov, or 1-888-CALL-FCC (TTY 1-888-TELL-FCC), and from www.dtv2009.gov or 1-888-DTV-2009 (TTY 1-877-530-2634) for information about subsidized coupons for digital-to-analog converter boxes.

*This notice will
print on April
bills.*

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DIGITAL TV TRANSITION

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING DIGITAL TV TRANSITION

The nationwide switch to digital television broadcasting will be complete on June 12, 2009, but your local television stations may switch sooner. After the switch, analog-only television sets that receive TV programming through an antenna will need a converter box to continue to receive over-the-air TV. Watch your local stations to find out when they will turn off their analog signal and switch to digital-only broadcasting. Analog-only TVs should continue to work as before to receive low power, Class A or translator television stations and with cable and satellite TV services, gaming consoles, VCRs, DVD players, and similar products.

Information about the DTV transition is available from your local television stations, www.DTV.gov, or 1-888-CALL-FCC (TTY 1-888-TELL-FCC), and from www.dtv2009.gov or 1-888-DTV-2009 (TTY 1-877-530-2634) for information about subsidized coupons for digital-to-analog converter boxes.

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Questions & Answers about DTV (Digital Television Transition)

By February 17, 2009, analog broadcasts will cease and full-power television stations will begin broadcasting exclusively in a digital format. Below are some questions and answers for TV consumers.

Why is the switch from analog to digital necessary?

The broadcast spectrum is valuable. By switching to all digital broadcasting, parts of the spectrum will be free so other services can be offered, like advanced wireless services, such as wireless broadband.

Is this switch just a benefit to the broadcasting industry?

No. The consumers' benefit is improved picture and sound quality with digital transmission. The broadcaster will be able to offer a "high definition" (HD) digital program or multiple "standard definition" (SD) digital programs at the same time through a process called "multicasting." Digital is more efficient than analog.

How do I know whether my TV set is analog or digital?

TV sets made before 1998 were traditionally "analog" TV's. If you bought a big-screen TV between 1998 and 2004, there is chance it has a built-in digital tuner. Before 2004, only a limited percentage of projection TV sets included digital tuners. If you bought a new TV since 2004, there is a strong likelihood that it has a built-in tuner that will work after February 17, 2009.

How do I get ready for the end of analog TV broadcasting?

You will need to take one of these three steps by February 17, 2009:

1. You can purchase a digital-to-analog converter box that plugs into your existing TV set. The boxes cost between \$40-\$70 and are available at electronics retailers nationwide. Households can request up to two \$40 coupons towards the purchase of converter boxes. By installing a converter box, you will be able to continue watching free "over-the-air" television on an analog set.
2. You can purchase a new television set with a built-in digital tuner.
3. You can subscribe to a pay TV service, like DCTV or Central Dakota TV (where available), satellite or cable to get the local broadcast stations you want.

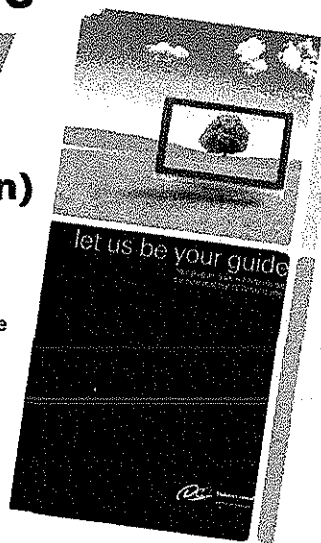
How do I get my converter box coupons and how long are the coupons active?

You may apply for up to two \$40 coupons per household anytime before March 31, 2009. To get your coupons call 1-888-388-2009, go online at www.DTV2009.gov or mail an application request to P.O. Box 2000, Portland, OR 97208-2000. You will receive your coupon(s) in the mail and they are good for 90 days after mailing. The expiration date will be printed on the coupon.

Will I still need an antenna to receive DTV over-the-air?

Yes. An antenna is required for you to continue watching free, over-the-air television after the digital transition. Visit www.antennaweb.org to determine which outdoor antenna is best for you.

There are many more questions, and if your questions have not been answered here go online to: http://www.dtvanswers.com/dtv_faqs.html or give us a call and we'll assist you. Just remember if you are a DCTV customer, you're already ready; no new TV or converter box purchases are necessary. Just continue enjoying your digital TV programming from Dakota Central.



Help us locate these DCT Members

The following is a list of Capital Credit checks issued by Dakota Central Telecommunications Cooperative in April 2008 that remain unclaimed or uncashed. If your name is on the list, or if you can help us locate someone whose name is on the list, please contact Dakota Central Telecommunications at 652.3184 or toll free at 1.800.771.0974 or e-mail deedraa@daktel.com.

2008 Capital Credit Addresses Needed

Dusek, Troy
Eicholtz, Dave
Fallon, John
Fischer, Gregory J.
Gahner, Kenneth
Geier, Dennis
Geier, Wm. Dick
Geigle, Steve, Ron Geigle
Goldade, Robert
Golden Wheel Bar, Joann Seil
Goodman, Monte
Gray, Lawrence
Grilley, Candice
Hagel, Scott
Haugen, Rick D.
Hurdfield Dairy King, Melissa Frueh
Jensen, Ruth
Keller, Corey
Kelly, Marshall
Kluting, Wesley Sr.
Koble, Peter
Meikle, Tim
Michel, Mark
Miller, Kristen
Nelson, Jeffery C
Oster, Michael S
Paulson, Roy
Posein, Sheri
Radtke, Laveron
Roemmich, Romelle
Rosek, Martin
Schaf, Robert
Siltala, Justin
State Farm Ins., Ron Waggoner
Tucker, Lester
Wagner, Monica
Wolff, Chad
Wruck, Terry L
Zink, Cindy
Zwinger, Lee